- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ships, aircrafts and-hovercraft maintain regular patrol along the Indo/Pakistan international Maritime Boundary Line to prevent poaching smuggling, piracy and illegal immigration.
- A Maritime Rescue Sub Centre (MRSC) is manned round the clock in Jakhau, Okha, Vadinar and Porbandar to provide assistance to fishermen at sea including details of fishermen operating off the Indo/Pak IMBL to Government of Gujarat for taking appropriate action.
- The Indian Coast Guard regularly reports the details of Indian fishermen operating off the Indo/Pak national IMBL to Government of Gujarat to take appropriate actions to that they do not cross over to Pakistan waters.
- In this connection, an agreement has been signed between India and Pakistan on 3rd October, 2005 for establishment of a communication link between Indian Coast Guard and PMSA for exchange of information regarding apprehension of fishing vessels, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) violation, coordination of return passage and rescue operation.

Revival and restructuring of Dabhol Power Plant

3883. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of revival and restructuring of Dabhol Power Plant in Maharashtra;

(b) the estimated cost of power with Naphtha as the fuel and with LNG as fuel;

(c) whether source of LNG supply has been identified and firmed up; and

(d) the details of tax concessions and tax waivers and the amount granted to Ratnagiri Gas and Power Ltd. formed after restructuring of Dabhol Plant?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE) (a) Ratnagiri Gas and Power Pvt. Ltd. (RGPPL), the Project Special Purpose Vehicle, set up by NTPC Ltd. (NTPC) and GAIL (India) Ltd. (GAIL) has acquired the secured assets DPC as per the terms envisaged under the "consent terms" dated September 22,2005 approved by the Hon'ble Bombay High Court. Physical possession of the assets of DPC was handed over to RGPPL by the Court Receiver, Bombay High Court on October 5-6,2005. Power generation commenced from 30th April 2006 with test synchronization of first of the two Gas Turbines of Block-ll. The steam Turbine was synchronized on 07th May 2006 and the second Gas Turbine was Synchronized on 14th May 2006 thereby completing the revival of Power Block-ll of the plant.

(b) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is the main fuel for generation of electricity by the power plant. However, since completion of the LNG terminal and availability of LNG is not expected before December, 2006, in the interim period, Naphtha/High Speed Diesel (HSD) is being used as fuel based upon the requirement of Maharashtra. Since Maharashtra is facing acute power shortages particularly during peak hours, and RGPPL has some existing stocks of Naphtha/HSD acquired with the asset transfer, these available stocks of naphtha/HSD have been suitably augmented with fresh purchases to the extent that the pooled price is acceptable to Maharasthra. RGPPL is presently supplying infirm power based on Naphtha to Maharashtra at an agreed interim tariff of Rs. 4.25 per KWH.

The cost of generation based on LNG would depend on the price of LNG, which is sourced by GAIL India Ltd. on best endeavour basis. Moreover, the power tariff would be determined by the appropriate Regulatory Commission.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government of India has approved the following concessions for revival of the project and ensuring its viability:

(i) Accord of Mega project status to RGPPL for the integrated facility, including the power plant and the LNG terminal. The benefits under the Mega Power Policy to be accorded to the integrated project including exemption from customs duties on capital equipment and Section 801A of Income Tax Act, 1961 for a period of 10 years in a block of 15 years.

(ii) Waiver of capital gains tax, if any, on the transfer of assets from Dabhol Power Company (DPC) to RGPPL.

(iii) Withdrawal of the appeal against Customs Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal's (CESTAT's) order pending in the Supreme Court regarding disputed claims of past customs duty through mutual release of claims by Central Board for Excise & Customs (CBEC) and DPC.

(iv) Waiver of 5% customs duty for 5 years on import of LNG for power generation by RGPPL and similar Integrated Power Projects.

No amount of money is being released to RGPPL by the Government of India.

Coal shortage at NTPC Unit in Ramagundam

3884. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 2600 MW National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) unit at Ramagundam is on the verge of collapse due to coal shortage;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure continuous supply of coal to this unit?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no shortage of coal at Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station (STPS) of NTPC Ltd. As on 15.05.2006, Ramagundam STPS is having sufficient coal stock for 14 days' consumption against the norm of 15 days for pithead station. During April, 2006, the power station generated 1835.5 Million Units of electricity at a Plant Load Factor (PLF) of 98.1 %. Further, there was no generation loss due to coal shortage in Ramagundam STPS during 2005-06.

(c) To ensure continuous supply of coal, Ramagundam Stage I and II (2100 MW) has been granted long term coal linkage from Singrauli Coal Company Ltd. (SCCL) and the present supply from it is of the order of